

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 8 with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] In one embodiment, the present stepping motor includes a stator blade made of soft magnetic materials and a permanent magnet rotor having a rotor axis. The rotor is accommodated within a rotor hole located at a center position of the stator blade. The stator blade incorporates three narrow grooves therein, each of which is disposed ~~at an~~ at an angle of  $120^\circ$  to one another along a radial direction of the rotor. Two ends of the narrow grooves are connected with the stator blade such that when a current is present in coils disposed along two sides of the stator blade a magnetic-pole end surface surrounding the rotor hole is formed by a part of the stepping motor between two of the narrow grooves in the stator blade. In some embodiments the rotor hole has a circular vertical cross-section ~~of a concentric circle~~ with the rotor and the distance from each end of each of the narrow grooves to a center of the rotor axis is equal. In other embodiments, the rotor hole has a vertical cross-section approximating a circle but for straight-line sections, each of which is perpendicular to a diameter of the rotor, disposed about the rotor hole in positions proximate front-end locations of the narrow grooves in the stator blade.

Please replace paragraph 27 (the Abstract) with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] A stepping motor includes a stator and a permanent-magnet rotor having a rotor axis. The stator is a stator blade made of soft magnetic materials whose center position is a rotor hole accommodating the rotor. Coils are provided on two sides of the stator blade. Within the stator blade are located three narrow grooves, each of which is disposed at an angle of  $120^\circ$  to one another along a radial direction of the rotor. Two ends of the narrow grooves are connected with the ~~said~~ stator blade, and when a current is present in the coils a magnetic-pole end surface surrounding the rotor hole is formed by the part of the motor between two of the narrow grooves. The stator blade of the stepping motor ~~of the present utility model is in integral~~ of the present utility model is in integral that is solid, resistant to twist and ~~easy to be~~ easily machined and assembled.